

Novum Lumen Chirurgicum
Vindicatum :

OR, THE
NEW LIGHT
OF
CHIRURGERY.
VINDICATED

From the many unjust Aspersions of several unknown Calumniators.

With the Addition of som few Experiments made this Winter, 169^t, in England.

By JOHN COLBATCH, a
Member of the College of Physicians.

The Third Edition.

L O N D O N,
Printed by J. D. for D. Brown, 1698.

To the Honorable
 WILLIAM BLAITHWAYT, Esq;
 Secretary of War.

S I R,

MY Adversaries having dedicated a Piece to You, wherein they desire Your Patronage of Truth, which they pretend to be on their Side; I being likewise sufficiently satisfied that the Greatness of Your Soul is such, as not to be amused with specious Pretences, have presum'd also to dedicate this Tract to You: which, tho I have not had time to put into any Order, yet it contains most indisputable Truths.

I

I beg no other Favor of You, than that if Truth inclines to my side, You will afford me Your Patronage, which my own Experience is sufficient to assure me, that my Request will be as readily granted as desired. I am,

S I R,

Your most obliged

and Obedient

Servant to command,

JOHN COLBATCH,

TO THE
 READER.

ON the 18th day of this instant April 1695, there came to my Hands a little Libel set forth by my old Friends the Surgeons. At first I thought it would not be worth my spending any time in writing an Answer to it; till at last I concluded, That if I should be altogether silent till the end of the Campaign, they might in my Absence triumph amongst themselves, and make the unthinking Part of the World believe I had given up my Cause, and yielded all for lost. To prevent which, I have (in the midst of my Multiplicity of Business) spent a few hours in composing the following little Tract; which tho I must own to be full of many Imperfections, yet it contains nothing but Truth: and therefore for Truth's sake I doubt not but the Candid Reader will pass over those other Failings with which he may meet.

The Charges laid against me are very numerous; and were they but as true, I must of consequence be the most vile Creature alive.
 But

But I having bin used so much to the Scurrility of som of that Fraternity, there is nothing but I can bear from them: And indeed I should be to blame, if I was not content to give Losers leave to speak; and so much the more, by reason that their Diana (I mean their ill Practices being detected, the World will be so wary as to have a care of them) is falling into Disgrace; to keep up whose Reputation (tho to the great prejudice of Mankind) they will not fail to make their utmost Efforts: A drowning Man will lay hold on every Twig. To be sure, if making a Noise, and using ill Language, will do any thing towards the Preservation of their sinking Credit, that shall not be wanting.

As I have before said, so I say it again, That both the City of London, and the English Army afford a great many Surgeons, who are Men of extraordinary Worth, from whom I have received many Civilities; and instead of being discouraged by them, I have bin to the utmost of their Power assisted in carrying on my Designs.

I have had occasion to mention Mr. Bernard's Name, which I could not possibly avoid; But I am so far from charging him with any thing unfair, that there is nothing more; for I can hear of no one person who has at any time heard him declare, That the
Man

Man at the Hospital bled again after my Poudre was applied, and had stopt the Flux of Blood. Nay, I have bin inform'd that he was altogether against the publishing of that scandalous Libel, telling the Authors, that it was in vain to write against Matter of Fact. Whether this Relation be true or not, I am not certain: But of this I am sure, he is a very great Man, and the Honor of his Profession; and I verily believe he scorns a mean Action. I heartily wish I could say the same of Mr. Cooper and others, from whom I never deserved ill.

Where was scarce an Experiment I made last Year in Flanders, but there were several Officers Spectators; so that if I had not perform'd what I pretended to, I must quickly have bin detected. But I thank God my Success was such, that I have gained the good Will of most Officers of the Army, whose Words will (I suppose) go further with all considerat Men, than the scandalous, malicious Reports of some interested Surgeons.

Tho I have no immediat concern in the Medicins here recommended, yet my Reputation as much depends upon the Success or Non-success of them, as if they were still at my own disposal; and therefore I think I am obliged to acquaint the World, that the right ones are only to be had of Mr. Brown the

Bookseller, and Mr. Raddison, the Persons deputed to dispose of them by the present Possessor.

There are several Persons about the Town, who have endeavored to imitate these Medicines, and afterwards to sell them in my Name; but whosoever shall buy any, except of the Persons before mentioned, when they find themselves frustrated in their Expectations, I hope will not blame me, having given them this fair Warning.

*From my House in Villers-
street, York Buildings.*

Novum

Novum Lumen Chirurgicum Vindicatum :

O-R, A

VINDICATION of the New Light
of Chirurgery.

THere having lately stoln into the World a scandalous Libel, intitul'd; *Novum Lumen Chirurgicum Extinctum*, wherein the Author, or rather Authors (I being very well assured, that it was compos'd by a Club or Cabal of Surgeons) pretend to ridicule notorious and known Matter of Fact; and he or they pretending to detect Imposture, and to vindicate the Cause of Truth, I leave it to the impartial Judgment of any rational, sober Person, whether the Author or Authors had any reason to conceal their Names. I confess there are the two initial Letters of a Person's Name prefix'd to the Title Page; which if they answer to the Person I have som reason to suspect, had his Name bin written at length, his Life and Conversation are so very scandalous (he having last Year bin cashier'd the Regiment to which he belong'd for his scandalous way of Living, as I have bin credibly inform'd by som of the Officers of the said

Regiment) that it had bin sufficient to have deter'd any one from reading more than the Title Page alone.

The Authors have taken care to send this Libel into the World at a time when I am full of business in making my Preparation for *Flanders*, and just upon the point of going, and therefore not capable of writing so full an Answer as otherwise I would have don, and which may be expected at the end of the Campaign; and also when the Officers of the Army, who would have bin my Compurgators, are gon out of Town.

Mr *Hall*, Surgeon to the Honorable Col. *Fitz-Patrick's* Regiment of Fusileers, who had a considerable hand in writing this Piece, brings in the Major and two Captains of the said Regiment to justify a most notorious Untruth; of which, when it shall com to their knowledge, I suppose he will have sufficient cause to repent.

As for what they say concerning the Dogs wounded before the Right Hon. the Lord *Cuts*, and the Soldier wounded upon *Tower-Hill*; if I had time, I could sufficiently make appear the Truth of every tittle I said in my Preface on that Subject; and whoever will give himself the trouble of going to Mr. *Sterkey* Surgeon upon little *Tower-Hill*, will be satisfy'd that the Man's Case was most deplorable, and quite contrary to what they relate.

They

They say I have deserv'd ill of most Surgeons; which is no otherwise true, than if to be civil, and shew respect in the highest degree, be to deserve ill.. For I defy any one of that Fraternity to say, I ever denied them to shew what Experiments they desired, and to let them see my Patients dress'd on all occasions.

And since Mr. *Cooper* is by them trump'd up in relation to the Experiments made at St. *Bartholomew's* Hospital, I shall represent that whole Business to the World, and leave it to any impartial Person to judg whether I was fairly dealt with, or not.

Having made som Experiments before Mr. Cooper, &c. first upon a Dog, making an Aperture in his *Abdomen*, then taking out one of his Small Guts, and wounding it, of which he was in 3 or 4 Days well; then cutting off one of his hinder Legs as close as possibly we could to his Body, and immediatly stopping the Flux of Blood without any hard Bandage, to the great satisfaction of all the Bystanders: I was desired by one of the Master-Surgeons of the Hospital to try my Medicins upon two Persons, who were to have the one a Leg, and the other an Arm cut off, which I readily granted. The Day before these Operations were to be performed, I receiv'd a Letter from the said Master-Surgeon, requesting me to com alone, and to bring no one with me, that a Croud might be avoided, and his Brethren not displeas'd, (which I leave to any one to

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judg whether it did not look as if there was som Design, as the Sequel will demonstrate.) Accordingly I went to the Hospital, having no one with me but my Boy of about 14 Years of Age. But (to my great surprize) when I came there, I found at least twenty of their Fraternity. However, knowing the Justice of my Cause, I staid to perform the Business about which I came. I confess my Pouder was two or three times applied before the Fluxes of Blood were stopt, but the irregular application of it by one of themselves was the occasion of it: And after the Fluxes were stopt, there was no other than mere retentive Bandage used, which is more than what any of them can pretend to with their most celebrated Medicins. After our Patients were drest up, and laid to Bed, we went all to the Tavern, where every one seem'd to express great Satisfaction in what had bin don. The next Morning, being at *Tom's* Coffee-house in *St. Martins-lane* with one *Mr. Clark*, I met with a certain Physician who told me that all was undon, for that one of the People had bled afresh; and if *Mr. Bernard* had not bin at hand to have taken off mine, and applied his own Medicins, he had bled to Death. The Truth of which I had no reason to believe, having sent one the Night before, and another that Morning, to make strict enquiry how they did, who brought me word they were both very well, but mentioned nothing of any
* such

such Accident: However, that I might be satisfied exactly in the truth of the Report, I immediatly went to the said Hospital, taking *Mr. Clark* with me. In our way we met *Mr. Blackstone*, Apothecary to the Hospital, who told me the same Story the Physician had. When we came to the Bed where the Man lay, whom they said had bled again; before I was capable of speaking to him, he rose up in his Bed, and prayed most heartily for me, telling me he believed no man, that ever had an Arm cut off, was so well as he: on which I ask'd him, whether he had not bled again after I left him; he reaching out his Stump to me, did solemnly protest, that those very Dressings were the same that were put on in my presence, and that they had not in the least bin touch'd from the time I saw him. I likewise ask'd him how he had bin for Pain; to which he replied, That for 4 or 5 hours after the Amputation, he had som Pains occasioned by an Inflammation just above the Stump; but that he slept well all Night, and was then perfectly at ease. We afterwards went up to the Boy, who told us the same the Man had don, saying he was perfectly at ease, and had slept well all Night. Som other Surgeons having said the same thing in relation to the Man's bleeding, I desired *Mr. Colbatch* a Stationer in *Cornhil*, and *Mr. Fisher* a Surgeon in *Aldersgate-street*, to go to the Hospital, who being Strangers, the People would relate the whole Truth to them;

but instead of either of 'em owning they had bled, they declar'd they were infinitely oblig'd to the Person who made the new Experiment upon them, for that they were well to admiration. These Operations were perform'd (to the best of my remembrance) on a Tuesday; and the Friday following I was desir'd to be at the same place again, to perform the Operation upon another Person: but finding this ill Usage, I sent Mr. *Baker*, a Surgeon in *Suffolk-street*, who was wont to make my Experiments for me, with som other Friends, to be as Witnesses, and desir'd by Letter, that Mr. *Baker* might make the Application of my Medicins; but there being about six Witnesses of what might be don, they refused to let Mr. *Baker* do it, and defer'd it to another time.. I likewise in the same Letter requested I might have notice given me, when the two before mentioned should be opened, that I might be present to see how the Stumps looked, which no body but will own was fair: But to be short, I was put off from time to time, and never admitted to see 'em at all. Now, if what I have said on this Subject argues not a Combination, I know not what dos; and for the truth of all, when I am at leisure, I will have it sufficiently attested before a Magistrate; nay the Man and Boy (tho reported to be dead) will both assist in confirming the truth of this Relation.

As for the Case of poor Capt. *Rogers*, I know nothing of it, but was told by one Capt. of Sir *James Lesley's* Regiment, at *Man's* Coffee-house, before Mr. *Baker* and others, that Capt. *Rogers* being open'd after he was dead, his Heart was found to be pierc'd. Whether he saw this himself, or heard it related by another, I am not certain; but he declar'd, on his certain knowledg my 7th Experiment was true to a tittle, it being made on a Soldier of the Regiment to which he belonged.

As for Mr. *Dun*, I know no more than this, that he being in a Public Coffee-house, where there were at least twelve People, complain'd of two or three Wounds he had receiv'd by a Cock's Spur, and that there had bin somthing applied by another Surgeon; his Hand was much swel'd and inflam'd, and he in great Pain, and fear of som further ill Consequence: so he requested me to apply my external Medicin, which I did, and gave him som of the Tincture in Ale: in about a quarter of an Hour he declar'd before all the Company, that his Pain was altogether abated. On the morrow he came again, and desired me to make a fresh Dressing, which, finding his Hand like to be well, I refus'd, telling him one Dressing was sufficient. Now he being unaccustom'd to such sort of Methods, thought I had slighted him; and therupon applied himself to Mr. *Johnson*, who every
body

body will allow, advis'd him to take off my Dressings, and make use of his; so what became of him after, I know not.

My time will not permit me at present to make Remarks upon the whole, for which however I shall take a convenient Season: And the World may expect my full Vindication; for it is the Cause of Truth for which I contend, and therefore am not asham'd to fix my Name to it. I confess (to use the Words of the Famous Mr. Lock) *the Imputation of Novelty is a terrible Charge among those who judge of Mens Heads, as they do of their Perukes, by the fashion, and can allow none to be right but the receiv'd Doctrins. Truth scarce ever carried it by Vote any where at its first appearance: New Opinions are always suspected, and usually oppos'd, without any other reason, but because they are not already common: But Truth, like Gold, is not the less so, for being newly brought out of the Mine. 'Tis Trial and Examination must give it Price, and not any antic Fashion: And tho it be not yet current by the public Stamp, yet it may for all that be as old as Nature, and is certainly not the less genuin.*

I did expect my Hypothesis would have bin overthrown, and a better erected in its place, for which I should have thank'd 'em; but instead of that, I find they have neither subverted mine, nor set up a new one of their own, but have stood at a distance and bark'd at me, shewing their Teeth, but either durst not or
could

could nor com near enough to bite me in that place where I lay open to them. For as in building a House, so in laying down a Hypothesis, no Man can be certain, that he who coms after, cannot erect a better Fabric.

But for my Experiments, relating them as Matter of Fact, I am obliged to stand by them; and I defy all their united Force in the least to overthrow them.

To the number of my Experiments, I shall add two or three made in *England*.

Experiment I.

A Servant belonging to Mr. *Norris*, a Member of Parliament for *Liverpool* in *Lancashire*, driving a Cart, by accident fell down before the Wheel, which running over his Head, divided the Scalp from off all the hinder part of it; and, as Mr. *Norris* said, the Scull was altogether as bare as if scrap'd with a Razor, for the breadth of 3 or 4 Inches; his lower Lip (by a Splinter, or som such thing) was divided the length of an Inch or more. The Man was presently brought into Mr. *Norris's* House, who says, he was the most miserable Spectacle he ever saw; but having som of my Medicins by him, he gave his Maid Directions how to use them. She made a Solution of my Pouder in Water, and with it wash'd the Scalp and Scull to free them
from

from Dirt and Sand that were lodg'd upon them; then she laid the divided Scalp on its proper place, and bound it up; then stich'd up the Lip, and made an Application. Mr. *Norris* has several times publicly declared in the *Grecian* Coffee-house in *Essex-Buildings*, that in 4 days both the Man's Head and Lip were perfectly well. He likewise said, that the Flux of Blood was so great, that he believes the Man could not have lived, whilst they sent 3 Miles for a Surgeon, unless my Medicins had bin applied. He says the Curiosity of the thing was such, and the Cure so speedy, that it drew a great many Surgeons of the Country therabouts to see the Man, and to be inform'd exactly of the Wounds, and the manner of the Cure; who all declared, they did not believe there had bin such a thing in Nature, and that if they had bin sent for, they could not have told what to have don. If Mr. *Norris* be gon out of Town, there are many Gentlemen who frequent the *Grecian* Coffee-house, that have heard him relate this thing, and can testify to it. I must beg Mr. *Norris*'s pardon for using his Name, without first asking leave; but since I was oblig'd to it in vindicating Truth, I hope it will be the more easily excused.

Experiment

Experiment II.

Perform'd by Mr. Baker at my Order, which compar'd with the 13th Experiment in my *Novum Lumen* (I suppose) confirms the truth of what I there say.

ON the 8th of March in the evening, I was sent for to one Roger , a Corporal in the Company of Capt. *Armstrong*, in the Regiment of Col. *Tiffany*. Mr. M. a Surgeon in *Bloomsbury* was then with him, who had dress'd him from the time the Wound had bin receiv'd, which was about 11 Days before, it being given with a large Bagonet Sword. It enter'd about the middle of the Leg, between both *Focils*, glancing on the *Tibia*, and so pass'd on, and went almost thro: For the Point of the Sword made a sort of Tumor in the Calf; it wounded the Artery, but that lying very deep, the Flux of Blood was not violent. He dress'd it that time, and so on for about 5 Days, it bleeding now and then, but not much; in which time the Wound was much enlarg'd; for at first he could not have put in above 4 or 5 Dossils, but then 20 perhaps or more, as both Mr. *Armstrong* and all the Family told me. On the fifth day it bled with that Impetuosity, that it frighted the whole Family:

ly : He stopt, or rather pent in the Blood with good store of Doffils and tite Bandage. It continued bleeding thus at times for many days ; in which time (as the Family told me) he lost about 12 or 14 Pints of Blood, even so much, that he look'd like a perfect *Skeleton* ; his Hands were shrivel'd, and as yellow as a Hawk's Foot. But on the 11th day after the Wound was inflicted, he bled again with the greatest Violence imaginable, which was the reason I was sent for. When I came, Mr. M. asked me whether I thought I could stop the Flux of Blood. I answered, I hope I can : For he had declared before, that nothing but Amputation could save his Life. He then open'd the Wound, pulling out most of his Dressings ; the Wound was so large, that 4 or 5 Fingers would easily have gon into it. The Dressings were not all pul'd away with Mr. M's *Forceps*, but the Blood rose in a most violent manner : I can liken it to nothing but to a Hole dug in the Ground (of about two Foot Diameter) over a Water pipe, in which, if you bore a large Hole, after the Ditch is full to the Brims, and runs over, the Water boils up in the middle somewhat high ; just so did the Blood. I put my Forefinger into the Wound, could feel both Bones very plain (but not the bottom of the Wound) with the violent Pulsation of the Artery ; I really believe the Artery was almost, if not totally divided. The Leg was swell'd to the highest
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degree, the Blood being extravasated, and filling up the *Interstices* of the Muscles (having bin so often, both by too tight Bandage and Dressings, pent in as it were by main force, till the greater force overpowered, and made its way thro' all) so that besides the often Bleeding, nothing less than a Mortification was to be fear'd. But having made my Application ready, I injected some of the Solution of the Powder into the Wound, but it was wash'd away by the Impetuosity of the Flux before it could arrive to the wounded Artery: However, with soft Pledgets dipt in the Solution, I dress'd it up for that time, and the Flux seem'd to be stop't; yet it bled somewhat that Night, but with no great violence, and soon stop't again. It did so twice or thrice, so that I was satisfied, unless I could empty the Wound of the Blood, and come to apply the Medicin to the Artery it self (the Case being quite different from what it had bin, had the Wound bin a fresh one, the Parts being all perfectly rotten, as will appear by the Sequel) I had little hopes of staying the Flux; on which I made use of the *Turnicat*, compressing the Vessels in the Ham, which retarded the impetuous Course of the Blood; so I emptied the Wound as much as I could, and applied the Solution with a Pledget to the very Artery, and filled the rest with soft Tow, using no Compress, only retentive Bandage. He had little or no Pain from the first time these
Medi-

Medicins were applied, except a little tensive pulsific Pain before the Flux was totally stopt. After this Application, not one Drop of Blood appeared, nor did it ever bleed afterwards, tho I dress him not in 5 or 6 Days; but in the mean time the Swelling abated, and from the Wound was discharged a quantity of coagulated, corrupted Blood. I continued dressing him with the same Solution only 4 or 5 times, in which time he was remov'd from his Masters House in *Southampton-street, Bloomsbury*, to a Nurse's near *Soho-Square*. The Day after his Removal I dress him, and with the Cloth applied over the Wound there came away a large Core made up of the contused rotten Fibers, coagulated Blood, and som Dossils which Mr. M. had left in the Wound; this was about 3 weeks after I first saw it. The Wound within look'd very ruddy and well, but the side of the *Tibia* or Shinbone (by which the *Musculus Anticus* lies) was bare, without any *Periostium*, about two Fingers in length. There was an extraordinary Cavity after the Core was discharged, and much Matter of a very ill smell, which obliged me to dress him oftner than usual; this Matter was the extravasated Blood, pent up long between the Muscles, which in this time had form'd for it self som Chambers. Yet in three days the contain'd Matter was all com away, the Leg fallen to its wonted Bigness, so that you might press every Part without any pain. All this while

while I never put in a Pledget, only squeez'd in the Solution, and spread the Pledget over, covering it with a clean Linen Rag, and the former retentive Bandage. During which time I used nothing but the said Solution to the discovered Bone, which were it a Caustic, what pretty work would it have made? Afterwards I dress'd him not above once in 5, 6 or 7 Days; he daily recover'd Strength, so that he rose, and by degrees walk'd with a Stick, the great Cavity being very fast, full of Flesh; the Bone hid; and by the 20th of *April* he was quite well. But this is remarkable, that in the beginning of the Cure by me, he took every day the Tincture in White-Wine or Claret, a Quart or three Pints a day, yet never was in the least feverish, tho at the same time he had no Stool for 11 Days, but always slept well, and gain'd strength.

I mention nothing here to derogate from the former Surgeon, who every one will allow deserves well in sending for Assistance when he was put to a Nonplus.

ROBERT BAKER.

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Experiment

Experiment III.

J *Annary* 14, 169⁴, *David Hunter*, Waiter at the *Roebuck Tavern* in Great *Suffolk-street*, in a Scuffle receiv'd a large Wound quite cross the *Carpus* or Wrist, in which the Artery was wounded, and two of the Tendons of the *Flexores Digitorum*, or Muscles which move the Fingers, quite divided. Their Extremities were seen by all By-standers. Within an hour after the Wound was given, I was sent for; it had bled much: but what with Napkins kept close on, together with the coagulated Blood, the great Flux was in some measure check'd. When I came in, I found a Dutch Physician there, who tho I propos'd to stich up the Wound, would by no means have it don; so I dress'd it only with the Medicins commonly used by us Surgeons, and bound it up: But at Midnight I was alarm'd, that he was bleeding to Death. I made all the haste I could to him; when I came, I found him fainting, and having great Convulsions. I found two Chamber-pots of Blood he had lost, before I could com to him, besides what was lost on the Ground, Sheets, &c. I presently put my Thum on the Artery, which beat and bled with that Violence, that it almost threw it off; and tho I made several Applications of the best common Restringtons,

I could not in the least stop the Flux; whereupon I sent for som of Dr. Colbatch's Pouder I had at my House, having forgot to take it with me. When it came, having no Water by me, I mix'd it with the White of an Eg, and with a Pledget of Lint applied it to the bleeding Artery, and another the whole length of the Wound, using only moderat Bandage just enough to keep on the Applications. In a moment the Flux of Blood was intirely stoppt, and he slept well all Night; but the next Day he was a little in pain; so I took off the Roller, and just lifted up one of the Pledgers, from under which came away about half a Spoonful of extravasated Blood, which had bin pent up by the glutinous Quality of the White of the Eg. After the discharge of which he was presently at ease. I open'd it not again till 4 days after, at which time the same Dutch Physician, and two English Surgeons my Friends were by; when to the great Amazement of us all, the Artery was quite hid, the Extremities of the divided Tendons not to be seen, and the whole Wound incarned, so that only Cicatrization was wanting. In 15 days he was well, and had the use of his Hand as well as ever in his Life; and the Pouder was but twice applied,

ROBERT BAKER.